

Does Allah Laugh at the Misery of Others?

by

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Argument:

The hadith corpus portrays Allah as an evil and uncaring God. It states that Allah laughs at the misery of others:

Waki' bin Hudus narrated that his paternal uncle Abu Razin said:

"The Messenger of Allah said: '**Allah laughs at the despair of His slaves although He soon changes it.**' I said: 'O Messenger of Allah, does the Lord laugh?' He said: 'Yes.' I said: 'We shall never be deprived of good by a Lord Who laughs.'" [Sunan ibn Majah, Vol. 1, Book 1, Hadith 181]

It was narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah said:

"**Allah laughs at two men, one of whom killed the other but they both entered Paradise.** The first one fought in the cause of Allah and was killed, then Allah accepted the repentance of the one who killed him, and he fought and was martyred." [Sunan an-Nasaa'I, Vol. 1, Book 25, Hadith 3168]

What kind of God laughs at such horrible things?

Response:

Allah is not Laughing at the misery of others out of enjoyment, but rather His Laughing is an indication that He is a God from whom we could expect good. This is implied in the first aforementioned hadith when the man asked the Prophet (peace be upon him), "O Messenger of Allah, does the Lord laugh?", to which he replied, "We shall never be deprived of good by a Lord Who laughs."¹ The Prophet (peace be upon him) himself went on to clarify the implications of Allah Laughing. So clearly, the hadith is not talking about Allah Laughing at our miseries out of some self-twisted amusement.

As for the second aforementioned hadith, similar to the first, Allah is not Laughing at the evil of killing. Rather, He is Laughing because there was so much hate and discord between those two

¹ Shaykh al-'Uthaymeen, in his *Sharh al-Aqeedah al-Wasitiyah*, said:

والفائدة المسلكية من هذا الحديث: هو أننا إذا علمنا أن الله عز وجل يضحك؛ فإننا نرجو منه كل خير. ولهذا قال رجل للنبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: يا رسول الله! أو يضحك ربنا؟ قال: "نعم" قال: لن نعدم من رب يضحك خيراً [164] إذا علمنا ذلك؛ انفتح لنا الأمل في كل خير؛ لأن هناك فرقاً بين إنسان عبوس لا يكاد يرى ضاحكاً، وبين إنسان يضحك. وقد كان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم دائم البشر كثير التبسم عليه الصلاة والسلام.

men during this life, yet all that animosity was removed from their hearts, and they both entered paradise. All of this was done by the Will of Allah.²

In conclusion, these ahaadith do not portray Allah as some twisted God who enjoys watching the suffering of others, but instead, they portray Allah as a beautiful God who is considerate of His servants.

² Shaykh al-‘Uthaymeen, in his commentary of *Riyadh us-Saaliheen*, said:

وسبب ضحك الله أنه كان بينهما تمام العداوة في الدنيا حتى إن أحدهما قتل الآخر فقلب الله هذه العداوة التي في قلب كل واحد منهما وأزال ما في نفوسهما من الغل لأن أهل الجنة يطهرون من الغل والحق كما قال الله في وصفهم {إخوانا على سرر متقابلين} وقال قبلها {ونزعنا ما في صدورهم من غل} فهذا وجه العجب من هذين الرجلين.